

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

May 18, 2006

METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRATORS INDICTED

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on May 3, 2006, **JARROD L. HENSON**, age 26, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, **LEROY REED BURKE, JR.**, age 38, of Woodlawn, Illinois, and **JUSTIN E. FORD**, age 22, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, were named in a one count Indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, charging them with conspiracy to manufacture fifty (50) grams or more of a mixture and substance containing methamphetamine.

All three defendants face a penalty of 5-40 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of supervised release of at least 4 years.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other state and local law enforcement pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.